COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1118

Tuesday, *the* $\frac{\textit{27th July 1943}}{\textit{11th Karkadagam 1118}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at eleven of the clock with the Hon'ble President (A. F. W. DIXON Esqr., C.I.E., I.C.S.) in the Chair.

Khan Sahib Y. Mohammed Roshan Sahib Bahadur (Commissioner of Police) and Messrs. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan and T. P. Poulose were absent.

Announcement of the Transfer of Hill Paddy Department to the Hon'ble Minister

Mr. President: Hon'ble Members,

I have an announcement to make which could not be included in my budget speech, but which I feel will be of interest to all of you.

Government have decided to transfer control of the Hill Paddy Department to the Hon'ble Minister. As you know, this Department is responsible for one of the most important and realistic single attempts yet made in India, directly by a Government to increase food production. 12,000 acres of forest land have been cleared this year by Government and already largely planted up with food crops. The area is proposed to be increased to 20,000 acres next year and the extent under paddy cultivation to be increased nearly 3 times.

As controller of this scheme the Hon'ble Minister will become one of the most important farmers in the world, with a farm of 20,000 acres and a staff of 6,000 to 8,000. As a practical farmer himself, he is, if I may say so, specially well fitted to assume this new responsibility.

The importance of this transfer can be judged from the fact that while the estimated expenditure of all the Departments now under the Hon'ble Minister's control in 1119 is Rs. 10·66 lakhs, the estimated expenditure of this Department alone is Rs. 8,90,988. On the receipts side the figures are still more striking. The estimated receipts of existing transferred Departments total Rs. 1,17,582 and of the Hill Paddy Department alone Rs. 14·35 lakhs.

Government would like to take this opportunity to assure Hon'ble Members that they fully sympathise with them in their desire for further constitutional advance. Cochin State already leads in this respect, and Government have every intention as opportunity offers to ensure, so far as possible, that the State maintains that lead.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE—PARTICULARS REGARDING

1. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon** *(Chittur-Rural):* Will Government be pleased to state.—Regarding the Rural Development Centre.

(*a*) is the Centre run on a commercial basis;

(*b*) what is the net gain in 1117 from Poultry, Cattle and Paper-making;

(*c*) has the centre realised the price of cattle, etc., given out on easy instalment payment system in 1117;

(*d*) is the Soap-expert expected to visit all taluks; if so, how many times in 1117 and in 1118 till Medam 31st has he visited Chittur?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) No gain from any of the items, as the sections are run for training hands.

(*c*) No cattle were given on easy instalment system in 1117.

(*d*) Yes. He did not visit Chittur in 1117 and in 1118. By the 1st Vrischigam 1118 the services of the Soap-expert were terminated and the section at the Centre discontinued.

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